

STAT

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

This is in reference to your letter to me of July 12, 1955, and our subsequent telephone conversation regarding the possibility of locating the new CIA headquarters installation at Langley, Virginia.

As I testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee on 15 July, CIA has carefully examined more than 30 sites in or near the District of Columbia in an attempt to select the best site for its new headquarters installation authorized by P. L. 161 of the 84th Congress. As a result of this study, we believe that Langley, Virginia and Alexandria, Virginia are the two areas which deserve most serious consideration. CIA would strongly prefer to locate its new headquarters at the site of the Research Station of the Bureau of Public Roads at Langley. This is a 300-acre tract of Government-owned land on which we would occupy 100 acres.

At the time the Supplemental Appropriation bill was being considered by the Senate Appropriations Committee, several citizens and Fairfax County officials testified before the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in favor of CIA's use of the Langley site (p. 290 of the Hearings) and they have also presented a map showing that over 80% of the property owners in the immediate vicinity of the site favored its use by CIA. It should be noted that a small minority of local residents of the Langley area have protested against the location of CIA at the Langley site, and representatives of this group, as well as officials from Alexandria also testified before the Subcommittee (p. 252 and p. 301 of Hearings). My own testimony is contained in the Hearings at p. 239. A copy of the Hearings is attached herewith.

The Central Intelligence Agency naturally understands the feelings of some of the residents of the Langley area who, rightly or wrongly, feel that the comparative seclusion of their community may be somewhat impaired by the Agency's location there. However, there seems to be no

410268

question but that, with the exception of this very small minority, Fairfax County wholeheartedly welcomes the CIA. The Agency feels that it is its primary duty, while taking into account the feelings of the residents, to attempt to select that site which will best facilitate the carrying out of its work in the public interest; and in view of the invitations and backing it has received from the people and officials of the area, CIA feels justified in expressing its preference for the Langley site.

In regard to the suspicion that has been conveyed to you, as set forth in your letter, that the purchase by certain Texans of a large plot of land in Fairfax County near our proposed headquarters location may have been the result of confidential information that we might locate there, and that resultant pressure might have been a part of our final selection of Langley as the preferred site, I wish to assure you once more categorically that the purchase of a tract of land by these individuals had nothing whatsoever to do with our expressed preference for the Langley site.

If there are any further questions which you have in connection with this matter, I will be glad to discuss them with you. Your courtesy in calling this matter to my attention for consideration before further action on your part is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Attachment

OGC:WLP/blc (1 Aug. 55)

CONCUR:

Orig. & 1 - Add ✓

Deputy Director/Support

2 - Signer ✓

2 - Legislative Counsel

1 - DD/S

1 - Dir. of Logistics w/basic